

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 656
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 06/02/2025

PROTECTION OF BIRHOR COMMUNITY IN JHARKHAND

656. SHRI ADITYA YADAV:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the fact that the Birhor community, a primitive tribe standing on the threshold of extinction, is facing the backlash of illegal coal mining in Jharkhand and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to save the lives of the tribe nearing extinction, keeping in mind that Birhors constitute only about 0.01 percent of the total tribal population of the country and their major concentration is in Jharkhand?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI DURGADAS UIKEY)

(a) to (b): The Birhor community is listed as Scheduled Tribe at entry no. 7 in the Scheduled Tribes list of Jharkhand. The Ministry is aware that there are certain communities within the Scheduled Tribes, which are backward in terms of socio economic and educational parameters and their dwindling population. The Ministry has identified 75 such communities which are recognized as Particularly vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). Birhor of Jharkhand State is one of such PVTG communities. For comprehensive development of tribals in general and PVTGs in particular the Ministry is implementing Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN). The Government of India, on 15th November 2023, has launched Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) for socio-economic development of 75 PVTG communities residing in 18 states and one UT including Jharkhand. The PVTG communities remained outside the coverage of Government Schemes, hitherto, due to geographical isolation, tough & difficult approach and due to various other reasons. The PM-JANMAN is implemented with the objective to provide basic facilities such as safe housing, clean drinking water and improved access to education, health and nutrition, road and telecom connectivity, electrification of unelectrified households and sustainable livelihood opportunities in 3 years by relaxing schematic norms. The Mission is being implemented in 18 states and one UT including Jharkhand. These objectives are being met through 11 interventions implemented by 9-line Ministries.

Subsequently, the Government of India has launched Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan on 2nd October, 2024. The Abhiyan comprises of 25 interventions implemented by 17-line Ministries and aims to saturate infrastructural gaps in 63,843 villages, improve access to health, education, Anganwadi facilities and providing livelihood opportunities in 549 districts and 2,911 blocks in 30 States/UTs, including Jharkhand, in 5 years for welfare of Schedule Tribes. Each concerned Ministry has been allocated budget and targets under Abhiyan and responsible for implementing the intervention assigned to it.
